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Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Sustainable development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 15 August 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary of the losses and damages sustained by the Ministry of Economy of the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of the acts of the armed terrorist groups committed against the Ministry's employees, facilities and vehicles, since the beginning of the crisis in Syria until 3 June 2012 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 19, 17 (a) and 109.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Armed terrorist groups have killed nine Ministry employees and abducted six others. Three of the abducted employees were released, but the fate of the three others remains unknown. Eleven employees, including the guards of facilities belonging to the Ministry, were attacked, beaten and fired on and had their identity cards stolen.

Armed terrorist groups have also attacked and ransacked 33 buildings belonging to the Ministry. Vehicles belonging to the Ministry were subjected to various forms of attack, including gunfire and the firing of shells, or stolen. In many instances, the stolen vehicles were fully loaded with food, such as rice, flour and imported wheat or citrus fruits, that was destined for market. Some 72 Ministry vehicles were stolen and another 97 were destroyed, resulting in damages valued at 131,408,818 Syrian pounds, which is equivalent to $3 million.

It is worth mentioning that of the institutions concerned with meeting the basic nutritional needs of the Syrian people, those responsible for wheat products were most affected by the terrorist operations. The General Bakeries Company alone was attacked on five occasions, shutting down the I'zaz bakery and the Najmah mill in Homs. Salibah bakery No. 2 in Ladhiqiyah was burned, the Sinjar silo was subjected to an armed attack and the Zahra' mill in Homs was attacked with bombs and mortars. Two women and a guard who work for the Homs bakery were abducted. The losses in this sector alone amounted to 40 million Syrian pounds, while the losses of the General Establishment for Storage and Marketing amounted to 38 million Syrian pounds. This clearly demonstrates that the goal of the terrorists and mercenaries, who are conducting such operations with funding and support from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, is to destroy Syria and everything that the Syrian people have built over decades, with a view to putting the country under pressure. This clearly confirms the falsehood of the assertion that what is happening is aimed at ensuring that the demands of the people are met.